

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-19 remain in this application, while claims 1 and 6 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

An alternative embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the sketch appended to this Reply. The alternative embodiment illustrated shows an embodiment of the invention which uses a turnable connecting plate and includes only one asymmetric connecting passage. For ease of reference, the same reference numbers used in Figure 3 of the present application are used to indicate equivalent elements in the sketch. The alternative embodiment includes a distributor block 3, a connecting plate 8, a flange block 12, and a spray bar 15 which are successively arranged and attached face to face.

The distributor block in this alternative embodiment includes two media passages 4, 5. The connecting plate has a single connecting passage 9, asymmetric relative to the longitudinal central plane 11, which opens on a side adjacent the distributor block 3. By way of this feature, in a first connecting plate position shown at the left side of the figure, the connecting passage 9 opens in fluid communication with a first media passage 4 of two media passages in the distributor block. When the connecting plate 8 is in a second position rotated 180° with respect to the first position, however, the connecting passage opens in fluid communication with a second media passage 5 in the distributor block as is shown at the right side of the figure. At the end facing the flange block 12, the connecting passage opens symmetrically relative to the longitudinal central plane 11 of the connecting plate 8; the turning axis about which the plate 8 can be rotated 180° lies on the longitudinal central plane 11 referred to.

By way of the alternative construction as described, the connecting passage 9 is in fluid communication with a central longitudinal connecting passage 13 of the flange block 12 in both the first position and the second position, as can be seen from the figure. The connecting passage 13, in turn, is in fluid communication with the central connection of the spray bar 15. When the connecting plate 8 is in the first position, a medium fed to the media passage 4 can be sprayed by the spray nozzles 16-18. When the connecting plate 8 is in the second position, however, a medium fed to media passage 5 can be sprayed by the nozzles 16-18.

It is also to be noted that, as an alternative to the configuration shown in the appended figure, the flange block 12 with the central connecting passage 13 is optional, and the spray bar 15 could be mounted directly to the connecting plate 8.

Independent claims 11 and 19 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with various other claims, as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,916,367 to Wollin in view of U.S. Patent 6,722,587 to Hanano. Reconsideration is once again requested.

Each of claims 11 and 19 requires, *inter alia*, connecting plates which are turnable about a longitudinal central plane between a first position and a second position, in which the connecting plate is turned 180° about the longitudinal central plane with respect to the first position, and that the connecting plate has at least one connecting passage in fluid connection with a distributor block media passage which is asymmetric to the longitudinal central plane in each of the first and second positions. This feature is neither found in nor suggested by either

the Wollin patent or the Hanano patent relied on. More specifically, neither the Wollin patent disclosure nor the Hanano patent disclosure teaches or suggests the use of connecting plates turnable by 180° and including at least one connecting passage which opens asymmetrically to a connecting plate longitudinal central plane at a side of the plate adjacent a distributor block as claims 11 and 19 require. Nothing in the rejection based on the Wollin and Hanano patents set forth by the Examiner, moreover, addresses the particular limitations mentioned. The Wollin and Hanano patents, taken as a whole, fail to suggest either the spray head defined by claim 11 or the spray head making method defined by claim 19.

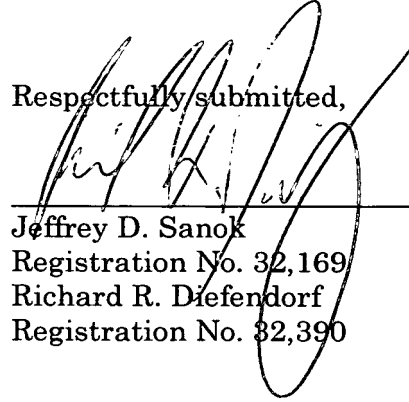
The additional secondary references discussed in sections 6 and 7 on page 4 of the Office Action fail to suggest further modifying either the Wollin spray head itself or the manner in which the Wollin spray head is made so as to meet the limitations mentioned, and currently amended claims 11 and 19 are patentable. The rest of the claims remaining in this application depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 11 and are considered patentable as well.

If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028972.53932US).

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Fig. 3 alternative

